

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 04815 181001Z  
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 /022 W  
-----079804 181122Z /17

R 180838Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2857

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ASEC  
SUBJECT: SECURITY COVERAGE BAGHDAD

REF STATE 186263

1. TO MAINTAIN FULL AND COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY PROGRAM FOR AMMAN, POST REQUIRES DAILY ATTENTION OF ITS SECURITY OFFICER TO THE MANY VARIED SECURITY PROBLEMS WHICH ARISE. ANY LESS COVERAGE WOULD DIMINISH THE HIGH-LEVEL SECURITY SUPPORT THIS POST NEEDS.

2. SINCE THE ATTACK ON THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, EMBASSY'S RSO LIAISON WITH POLICE OFFICIALS, INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS AND SECURITY PROTECTION DETAILS HAS RISEN TO A DAILY BASIS. EXTENSIVE LIAISON WITH SECURITY SERVICES IS REQUIRED TO MEET NUMEROUS AND VARIED EMBASSY PROGRAMS. THE RSO COORDINATES POLICIES AND PROTECTION FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS HOSTED BY AMERICANS AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING LIAISON WITH THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS INSURING ADEQUATE PSF COVERAGE IS PROVIDED FOR THE CHANCERY, THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE, AND OTHER LOCATIONS AS SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE. THE RSO IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL CLEARANCES WITH AIRPORT POLICE FOR VIP VISITS, SPECIAL PROTECTIVE SECURITY REQUIRE-  
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MENTS AND OTHER EMERGENCIES THAT ARISE. MOST IMPORTANT IS THE SECURITY OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR INSURING ALL VIP, CODEL AND SECSTATE VISITS ARE COORDINATED WITH ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN AMMAN. THE RSO'S ROLE IS ONE NEEDING VIRTUALLY 24-HOUR ATTENDANCE TO ADEQUATELY SUPPORT POST AND ITS STAFF.

3. IN ADDITION TO THESE DAILY AND CONTINUING LIAISON FUNCTIONS, THE RSO ALSO HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTINUOUSLY REVIEWING THE MISSION'S E&E, BOMB, POST SECURITY SURVEY, INTERNAL DEFENSE AND ANTI-TERRORISM PLANS. IT IS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO BRIEF EACH NEW ARRIVING EMPLOYEE ON THE PURPOSE OF THE PLAN AND AS APPROPRIATE THE EMPLOYEE'S ROLE OR PARTICIPATION IN THE PLAN. HE ALSO HAS ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ALL FSLE SECURITY FILES WHICH HE HANDLES WITHOUT SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE.

4. EMBASSY REGRETS IT CANNOT ENDORSE DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSAL TASKING AMMAN RSO WITH ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES BY ASSIGNING BAGHDAD AS A REGIONAL POST. TO DO SO WOULD REDUCE AMMAN'S SECURITY EFFECTIVENESS, AND IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO RESULT IN INADEQUATE COVERAGE FOR BAGHDAD; NEITHER POST WOULD BE OBTAINING THE TYPE OF SECURITY THEY BOTH DESERVE.

5. WE SUGGEST THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER OTHER ALTERNATIVES. IF REGIONALIZATION APPEARS TO BE DEPARTMENT'S ONLY REALISTIC SOLUTION, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WISEST TO SELECT A SUPPORT POST THAT HAS AT LEAST TWO RSO'S ALLOWING COVERAGE AT THE PARENT POST WITH ONE SECURITY OFFICER WHILE THE OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS AVAILABLE FOR TRAVEL.

6. WE ALSO DOUBT IRAQI VISAS CAN BE READILY OBTAINED IN AMMAN. THERE HAS BEEN ONE EMBASSY MEMBER IN THE PAST TWO YEARS WHO HAS SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINED AN IRAQI VISA IN AMMAN. WE DOUBT A SECURITY OFFICER WOULD BE ANY MORE SUCCESSFUL.  
PICKERING

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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